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congressman
ROBERT BRADY
serving pennsylvania's first district

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The Brady Brief - Improving Military and Overseas Voting

Dear Friend,

This week, as the Ranking Member on the Committee on House Administration, I oversaw an important hearing which addressed issues with military and overseas voting. After problems were reported with U.S. citizens voting abroad, I called for the need to examine the effectiveness of the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) during the 2010 elections. I believe that this hearing was just the first step in ensuring that those serving in our Armed Forces overseas are able to cast their votes in elections back in America, and I look forward to continuing to work on this issue.

The MOVE Act was passed by Congress and signed into law in 2009. This legislation aimed to aid and enable military serving overseas, as well as citizens who live abroad, to vote in U.S. elections. Among other provisions, the MOVE Act required states to send out ballots earlier so the voter had enough time to receive, cast, and send back their ballot. The act also removed some unnecessary restrictions on the ballots or applications, making it much simpler to vote overseas.

While I believe this law ultimately helped many people vote while living abroad, significant problems were reported regarding the counting of overseas ballots. As many as 30% of overseas ballots went uncounted, and that is unacceptable. At this hearing we had several witnesses testify as to what went wrong in the 2010 elections and how these issues can be addressed and improved for future elections. This hearing was just the first step in the process of improving overseas voting, and I anticipate future progress on this issue.

I pledge my support and look forward to working with my colleagues to further improve the ability of our brave men and women serving this country abroad to participate in our election process. Should you have any questions about this or any other issue, please visit [my website](#) or contact my office.

Sincerely,



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



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